

3. Climbing asparagus

Asparagus scandens



What is climbing asparagus?

Climbing asparagus is a pest plant in New Zealand. It grows in many forests, parks and gardens.

It is an invasive plant that covers other plants and can take over large areas where native plants grow.

Why is climbing asparagus a problem for NZ?

This pest plant can smother native plants and cover the ground, preventing seedlings from growing. It can grow tightly around the stems of native trees, strangling their trunks.



How do I know it's climbing asparagus?

Climbing asparagus has soft small leaves which branch off the stem. It has very thin, wiry, branching stems that wrap around other plants.

The flowers are white and tiny. In spring to summer it produces small orange fruits.

How does it spread?

Birds spread the seeds. Pieces of stem can also re-grow. Dumping this weed can also cause it to spread.

Climbing asparagus comes from South America.



For more detailed information about climbing asparagus and how to control its spread see: weedbusters.org.nz